

Iowa Science Teachers Journal

Volume 27 | Number 3

Article 15

1990

Science Notes - Summer Institute for Secondary Science Teachers

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Recommended Citation

(1990) "Science Notes - Summer Institute for Secondary Science Teachers," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 27 : No. 3 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol27/iss3/15>

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SCIENCE NOTES

Summer Institute for Secondary Science Teachers

The Kansas State University Center for Science Education is soliciting applications for a two-week summer institute. The institute, "Teaching Evolution: Understanding, Concerns and Instructional Approaches," will run June 17-28 and will focus on the nature of science in the teaching of evolutionary principles from biological, geological and educational perspectives.

The institute is funded by the National Science Foundation and is designed to:

- update participants' background in the nature of science and knowledge of biological and geological science content related to evolutionary theory.
- enhance participants' abilities to assess and address student misconceptions regarding scientific concepts that contribute to historical and contemporary views of evolutionary theory.
- assist participants in the development of units of study and daily lessons that integrate the nature of science, updated science content and alternative instructional strategies for teaching evolution.

To be eligible for participation in the institute, applicants must be certified to teach in a secondary science discipline (priority will be given to biology/earth science teachers and rural teachers) and must have a degree in science education, two years teaching experience and a letter of support from their principal.

Two hours of graduate credit may be obtained for participation in the institute. Participants will receive a stipend of \$600, round-trip travel expenses, approximately \$175 worth of books and instructional materials and room and board at Kansas State University.

For more information, contact Dr. Larry Scharmann, 247 Bluemont Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Cleaning Safety Goggles

Teachers have requested information regarding cleaning safety goggles in a cost-effective, hygienic manner. Physicians and pharmacists suggest cleaning such equipment with individually wrapped alcohol pads. These sterile pads are easy to use, effective against most skin-borne infections, harmless to most types of plastic and inexpensive (\$2.50 per box of 100 pads). As a test, three sets of goggles were cleaned 30 times each using the pads. The plastic showed no ill effects and the pads eliminated germs as well as the usual laboratory grime.

--Jack Gerlovich